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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
of
HEALTH.

For the Year

1939.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939, bearing upon the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough.

As my appointment as your Medical Officer of Health dates from the 1st October, 1939, the report for the whole year is compiled from the statistics and statements of the officers in charge of the various sections of the Public Health Department, and to them I am grateful for much valued assistance.

Owing to the increasing pressure of work on the Departments of the local Authority, the Report in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health is presented in an abridged form.

Hence there is recorded only information relating to certain essential and outstanding matters connected with the Health services.

With the outbreak of hostilities, Housing activities which hitherto had been progressing in a very satisfactory manner, have come to a complete standstill, and no further building operations can be looked for until the termination of the war.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES ANGUS,

Medical Officer of Health,
Borough of Morpeth.

146 Station Road,
Ashington.

December, 1940.

B O R O U G H O F M O R P E T H .

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1939.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health Medical Officer Infectious Diseases Hospital	) James Angus, M.B., CH.B., B.HY., D.P.H. (appointed 1st Oct. 1939)
	T. S. Blaiklock, M.D. Relinquished appointment 30th Sept. 1939)
Chief Sanitary Inspector	F. K. Perkins, M.I.M. & C.E., M.R.S.I.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Meat)	J. C. Tweedy, M.S.I.A.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	W. Telford, M.S.I.A.
Offices	36 Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Infectious Diseases Hospital	The Common, Morpeth.

BOROUGH OF MORPETH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres - 2213.

Registrar General's Estimate of
(a) Resident population mid 1939.....9732
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates.....9874

Areal comparability factor is.....0.94

Rateable value - £52601.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £203.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books - 2458.

Vital Statistics.

Births:-

Live Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.....	151	81	70
Illegitimate.....	6	3	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 16.13.

Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.....	5	2	3
Illegitimate.....	1	-	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 36.81.

Deaths:-

Total.	Male.	Female.
129	72	57

Death rate per 1,000 of the average population - 13.06
Death Rate multiplied by areal comparability factor - 12.28.

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-
No.30 Other Puerperal causes	1	6.13
Total.....	1	6.13

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 44.58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.... 26.49
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.500

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 19
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... 0

The Registrar General supplies the following table:-

CAUSES OF DEATH 1939.

	Male.	Female.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-
2. Measles	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-
6. Influenza	-	-
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-
8. Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
10. Other tuberculosis	-	1
11. Syphilis	1	-
12. General Paralysis of insane, Tabes Dorsalis	-	-
13. Cancer, malignant disease	9	10
14. Diabetes	-	3
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	4	3
16. Heart Disease	27	17
17. Aneurysm	-	-
18. Other Circulatory diseases	6	4
19. Bronchitis	-	2
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	-
21. Other respiratory diseases	-	-
22. Peptic ulcer	-	-
23. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-
24. Appendicitis	1	-
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-
26. Other diseases of Liver	-	1
27. Other digestive diseases	1	1
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
30. Other Puerperal causes	-	1
31. Con: deb: premature birth, etc.	4	2
32. Senility	1	5
33. Suicide	-	-
34. Other violence	5	2
35. Other defined diseases	7	2
36. Causes ill defined or unknown	-	-
37. Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	-	-
	72	57

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.....	2	2
Illegitimate.....	3	-
Totals.....	5	2

		Male.	Female.
Live Births.	Legitimate.....	81	70
	Illegitimate.....	3	3
	Totals.....	84	73
Still Births.	Legitimate.....	2	3
	Illegitimate.....	-	1
	Totals.....	2	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY - 1939.

Causes of death.	Und 1 wk	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1-3 mths	3-6 mths	6-9 mths	9-12 mths	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	2
Con: malformations.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Atalectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Injury at birth	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Totals	3	-	-	1	4	1	2	-	-	7

There were no deaths registered as being attributed to the following causes:- Measles; Diphtheria; Whooping Cough; Diarrhoea and Enteritis; Meningitis Tubercular; Abdominal Tuberculosis; Atrophy, debility, Marasmus; Erysipelas; Syphilis; Meningitis Non-Tubercular; Convulsions; Bronchitis.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance is a new Bedford 27.34, registered June 28th 1939.

No. of cases carried by new ambulance during the year 1939 - 88.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

District Nurses - 2.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The Maternity & Child Welfare and Orthopoedic Clinics are operated by the Northumberland County Council.

HOSPITALS, Public and Voluntary.

(1) The Cottage Hospital, incorporating the Margaret and John Oliver Memorial.

Staff.- 1 Matron, 1 sister, 2 assistant nurses, 3 probationer nurses.

Accommodation for 23, as follows - three single private rooms, 2 double private rooms, 1 ward for 10 males, and 1 ward for 6 female patients.

(2) Public Assistance Institution of the Northumberland County Council, Newgate Street.

(3) St. George's Hospital, Morpeth.

(4) Infectious Diseases Hospital, Borough of Morpeth, beds - 14.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Northumberland County Council is the Welfare Authority for the Borough.

Infant Welfare Centre, Parish Hall, every Monday, 10 - 4.
Ante Natal Clinic, Town Hall, alternate Thursdays 10.30.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Corporation owns its own water undertaking and a supplementary supply is obtained from the Tynemouth Corporation Water Works. Several samples of water were taken from stand pipes in different parts of the Town. These samples were sent to the County Laboratory at Newburn and the reports were very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

47 new drains were inspected.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was found to be necessary.

Closet Accommodation.

51 new additional water closets were established during the year.

Eradication of bed bugs.

(1) Number of Council Houses found to be infested during the year was Nil.

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year was 23, which were disinfested.

(2) Spraying with Zaldecide.

(3) See (2) above.

(4) Disinfestation has been carried out by or under the supervision of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

There are 5 schools for elementary school children and 2 schools for secondary education, all having a water supply from the Corporation mains and modern sanitary conveniences.

SECTION D.

Housing.

The following is a tabular statement for the year 1939.

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year-

	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total.
By Local Authority	-	-	-
By other Bodies or Persons	-	25	25

Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year :-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	265
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	265
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	28
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	28
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation....	227

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... ... 189.

Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "notices" were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices -

(a) By owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -

(a) By owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.. 38

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order. ... ... undertaking ...given.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above.. ... ... Nil

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply

There are eight Cowsheds and Dairies situated in the Borough. All have been regularly inspected.

Several samples of milk were taken during the year from the different herds in the Borough, in none of which specimens were found M.Tuberculosis. In one case a sample taken for cleanliness there was found B. Coli, due apparently to the admixture of milk from another district, for on a sample being taken at the dairy within the Borough no such contamination was detected.

No. of Cow keepers - 7
Dairies and Milk purveyors - 10. Inspections made - 212.
Notices served - 35.

Meat and other Foods.

Inspections of Slaughter Houses, Butchers' shops, Butchers' vehicles and places where food is prepared have been carried out by the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Public Slaughterhouses - 8 Inspections - 520

Private Slaughterhouses registered - 1 Notices served - 36

Unsound Meat surrendered:-

Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.	Livers.
456 lbs.	95 lbs.	82 lbs.	60 lbs.

Below is found in table form certain information relating to the Ante and Post Mortem Inspections of animals.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
NUMBER KILLED	884	208	12	2204	485
Number inspected	884	208	12	2204	485
All Diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	5	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.		.45			

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcase condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	.96	-	-	-

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases can be treated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital (14 beds) situated on the Common. Sometimes it has been found advantageous to send infectious sick to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital, Walkergate.

Scarlet Fever - 30 cases were reported during the year.

Diphtheria - 6 cases were notified during the year.

Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) - 1 case was notified.

Pneumonia - 10 cases were notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia - 4 cases were notified.

Erysipelas - 12 cases were notified.

Below is set out a summary of the incidence and age distribution of these infections.

Disease.	Und. 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	2	1	13	5	1	3	1	1	-	29
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	6
Enteric Fever (inc. paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	3	-	2	11
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Disease.	Und 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & Over	Total.
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	6	2	12
Measles	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Resp. M.	New Cases. Resp. F.	New Cases. Non-Resp. M.	New Cases. Non-Resp. F.	Deaths. Resp. M.	Deaths. Resp. F.	Deaths. Non-Resp. M.	Deaths. Non-Resp. F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
25-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	1	1	5	3	1	1	-	1

Non-notified deaths from Tuberculosis - 2
Total deaths from Tuberculosis - 3.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1939.

1. Defective and Insufficient Ash Accommodation	51
2. Defective Water Closets and Privies	16
3. Obstructed Drains and Sinks	104
4. Defective Spouting and Dampness	14
5. Accumulation of Manure	1
6. Informal Notices served	288
7. Statutory Notices served	Nil
8. Patients removed to Hospital	16
9. Rooms disinfected	31
10. Disinfestation of household effects	75

Factories and Workshops.

Factories with mechanized power	- 10
Factories without " "	- 40
Other premises under the Act (including Works of building and Engineering Construction but not including out-workers Premises)	- 22
Total:-	72
Number of Inspections	144

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the year 1939.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including LONDON.	148 Smaller towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.
	Rates per 1,000 population.			
Live Births	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still Births	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
Deaths.				
All causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid & paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
Notifications.				
Small-pox	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 yr. of age	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs. of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77)			
Others	2.16) Not available.			
Total	2.93)			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)			
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74)			
Others	2.08) Not available.			
Total	2.82)			
Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
" Pyrexia				14.22